



# Clermont County On The Move

*a newsletter for citizens*

Commissioners: Bob Proud, Mary Walker, and Scott Croswell  
September 2005

## Lambert Named Clermont Health Commissioner

Martha (Marty) Lambert has been named to serve as Clermont County Health Commissioner, effective September 1, 2005. Lambert will assume the duties of the office, following the retirement of Dr. Janet Rickabaugh.



**Martha Lambert**

"I'm really excited to accept the challenge of being Clermont County's next Health Commissioner," said Lambert. "I've been really lucky to have worked side by side with Dr. Rickabaugh over the past eleven years. She's helped me learn so much about public health and the inner workings of the Health District. She's leaving me with the best possible scenario:

a financially sound organization with capable and stable staff."

Lambert has served as assistant health commissioner in Clermont County since 1994. She holds a M.S. in environmental science from the University of Cincinnati and a B.S. in biology from Western Michigan University.

"My first task is to find someone to replace me as the assistant

health commissioner," adds Lambert. "After that, I plan to begin a strategic planning process that will involve the Board of Health, the

Health District staff, our community partners and the citizens we serve. In my spare time I'm selling my home and moving my family into Batavia Township, where I'll be just a few minutes away from the office. Just think, I can work an hour longer each

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***"My first task is to find  
someone to replace me...."***  
**Martha Lambert**  
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day and still leave and return home at the same time!"

"The Health District has always been a very busy, dynamic place to work," said Dr. Rickabaugh.

"Almost every week something new occurs which needs a different public health response. The members of the Clermont Health District staff are

very skilled and caring in responding to the multi-varied public health needs of the county. I wish to express my gratitude for all their efforts and thank them for helping me do my job better. I wish to express my deepest appreciation to Marty Lambert for her service as Assistant Health Commissioner and I wish her well in her appointment as Health Commissioner."

"I will miss the work and the people," adds Dr. Rickabaugh. "Thank you for the opportunity to serve our fine citizens."

### ***Clermont Named A Top Digital County***

The National Association of Counties (NACo) recently named Clermont County among the most technologically advanced, cutting-edge county governments in the country. The award was based on a recent Digital Counties Survey, which examined how county governments are evolving in their use of information technology when it comes to serving citizens.

Clermont County placed fourth nationally, in the population category between 150,000 and 249,999 citizens.

## September is National Preparedness Month

The Board of Clermont County Commissioners has proclaimed September as *National Preparedness Month* in Clermont County. “No community is truly prepared for a disaster until every individual, family, and household takes personal responsibility for preparedness,” said Clermont Commission President Bob Proud, in reading the proclamation. The national effort is cosponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross.

National Preparedness Month will involve increased efforts to provide citizens with a variety of opportunities to learn more about preparing for emergencies, including disasters, and potential terrorist threats.

“There are several things you can do right now, to ensure that your family is prepared,” said Clermont County Department of Public Safety Services Director Beth Nevel. “Put together a kit of emergency supplies that will allow you and your family to survive for at least three days, including such

items as water, food, flashlights, and a battery-powered radio. Make a plan, in advance, determining what you and your family will do in an emergency situation, including devising communication, shelter-in-place, and evacuation plans.”

For help in assembling your family or business preparedness kit, there are several excellent websites available, [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.redcross.org/preparedness](http://www.redcross.org/preparedness)



## MRDD Given High Marks for Program Services

By: Lisa Davis, MRDD

The Clermont County Board of MRDD is pleased to announce we have received a three-year accreditation from CARF (the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) in the areas of Case Management/Service Coordination, Child and Youth Services, Community Integration, Community Employment, and Organizational Employment Services. This is the fourth consecutive three-year accreditation we have received.

Among the many wonderful reviews we received in the areas of our program listed above (which includes our Early Intervention Program, Adult Services Program, Employment Services Division, etc.), we received an Exemplary Conformance status for our volunteer program and disability awareness curriculum. The final report commends the “innovative disability awareness education tool developed by staff members to help persons in the community experience particular challenges.

In addition, a well-developed and well-managed volunteer program brings community exposure into the organization, teaches community members the Clermont County Board of MRDD story, and makes them ambassadors while extending the capabilities of programming to benefiting persons served.”



### September Commissioner Sessions

Thursday, September 1	10 a.m.
Thursday, September 8	1 p.m.
Wednesday, September 14	1 p.m.
Wednesday, September 21	1 p.m.

All regular sessions are held in the third floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building, 101 East Main Street in Batavia, Ohio. For agenda information, contact the BCC offices at (513) 732-7300.

# Ribbon Cutting Held For Chilo Lock #34 Visitor Center

By: Chris Clingman, Park District



Over 225 people attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Chilo Lock #34 Visitor Center and Museum on Saturday, August 27, 2005. Bill Stearns, president of the Clermont County Park District Board, thanked all who helped make this project a reality, including the staffs of the Clermont County Auditor's Office, Treasurer's Office, and the Office of Public Information. The Board of Clermont County Commissioners was also recognized for their help and support in making the project a reality.

Ohio State Senator Tom Niehaus presented the Park Board with an Ohio flag. Ohio State Representative Danny Bupb presented a resolution sponsored by Bupb and

Representative Joe Uecker, congratulating the Park District on the project. Karen Glascoe from representative-elect Jean Schmidt's office was also on hand to offer congratulations.

Ralph Lindsey, who worked at Chilo Lock & Dam #34 as a diver and head lockman, cut the ceremonial ribbon opening the facility. Lindsey worked at the Chilo dam from 1947 until 1964 when the dam was closed. He then went on to work at the Meldahl Lock and Dam until he retired in 1979. He is

featured in one of the visitor center

***"This museum makes me proud to live in Clermont County," said Captain Bill Judd.*** video's about the daring divers who worked on the dam.

Many of the former residents of the site were on hand and shared memories of the old lock and dam. One related how he was handed out of the second story window into a boat during the 1937 flood. Others talked about going on dates during the flooding, in rowboats!



Exhibits in the center are hands on and tell the story of living and working on the Ohio River.

The park also features a replica of a sternwheel boat, the Jennie



Wade. Visitors can board the boat and learn more about life along the Ohio River.

Chuck Parrish, US Army Corps of Engineers historian, said the wicket dam exhibit is the largest and best model he's seen to educate visitors on how the

dams actually worked on the Ohio River.

Another visitor commented that his 13 year old son didn't want to leave!

"This museum makes me proud to live in Clermont County," said Captain Bill Judd of New Richmond. He's been navigating the Ohio River for 50 years.

The Visitor Center and Museum is currently open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from noon until 5 p.m. For more information you can call 513-876-9013.



## Sizzling Summer Reading Program

By: Sandy Prell, Library

Once again, the Clermont County Public Library's Summer Reading Program has reached a new goal as children and parents completed 2.8 million pages read together! *Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds* was the theme of this year's reading challenge which "dared" children at all ten branches to read two-million pages!



The success of the summer reading program was celebrated August 6, with a countywide carnival at Miami Meadows Park. Mini-carnivals were also held in Bethel and Felicity. Over 900 children and their parents attended the summer carnivals, made possible by our sponsors: Miami Meadows Park, Cinergy Foundation, Target, Banana Boat Suntanicals, and Stober Window Company.

### Welcome New Employees!

*Building* - Robert Powers, Margaret Simpson  
*DJFS* - Catherine Ruff, Ava Kahles, Ammon Brose, Christina Budai, Monique Gibson, Patricia Richardson  
*OMB* - Erica Donell  
*OPI* - Elizabeth Rawdon

### Congratulations!

The Coroner's office would like to commend Darrell Hawkins. He recently completed all the requirements and tests mandated by the *Crime Scene Certification Board of the International Association* for Identification as a senior crime scene analyst.

## Clermont Offices "In the Pink"

You're right, many workers at the Clermont County Administration Building are "in the pink." Staff members of the Auditors, Treasurers, and Records Offices wore pink to work to celebrate Margene Meranda's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!



### Congratulations Mia!



Mia Supe has been named the 2005 Orpha Gatch Award winner by the League of Women Voters. Mia has been active in the Support the Troops effort to obtain much needed supplies for our service personnel stationed in Iraq.

Clermont County Auditor Linda Fraley and June Creager with the Convention and Visitor's Bureau were among those nominated for this citizenship award.

## We've Moved !



The Clermont County Department of Community Planning and Development has moved. Our new locations is:

**2275 Bauer Road  
Batavia, Ohio 45103**

Phone: (513)732-7213  
Fax: (513)732-7366

### Find a new "best friend"



*Lots of puppies now available!*



**Clermont Animal  
Shelter**

**732-8854**

## September Library Events



By: Tammy Craig, Library

### Senior Driver Safety Program

September 9 and 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Amelia Branch Library

*This safety refresher AARP course is offered to those 55 and older.*

*Call 752-5580 to register.*

### Computer Training

Goshen Branch Library

*Call the Goshen library to setup a one-on-one*

*training session to learn about the*

*Internet and getting started on your computer. Call 722-1221.*



### Magic of Pegasus

Saturday, September 10, 2 p.m.

Owensville Branch Library

*Children are invited for magical stories from faraway places. Call 732-6084.*

### Fossils Then and Now

Saturday, August 20, 11 a.m.

Union Township Branch Library

*Join Clermont*

*County Park District naturalist Keith*

*Robinson for a fun*

*session of identifying various types of fossils. Call 528-1744 to register.*



### Grandparent's Day Storytime

Saturday, September 10, 1:30 p.m.

Williamsburg Branch Library

*Grandparents and little ones from*



*3-6 are invited for stories, songs, and to create a memory book to take home. Call 724-1070.*

## Biggest Tomato Contest

By: Dr. Gary Gao, OSU Extension-Clermont

Congratulations to the winners of the first annual "Biggest Tomato Contest" in Clermont County. Gardeners from across the county entered their prize tomatoes for the competition which was judged on weight (85%) and appearance (15%). The biggest tomato in the competition, grown by Daphne Carlier of Owensville, tipped the scales at 2 pounds, 1 ounce.



The winners, pictured above: 8th Place Winner-Brenda Plante, 7th Place Winner- Hannah Wagner, 6th Place Winner- Virginia Steward, 5th Place Winner- Vernon Wagner, 4th Place Winner- Bill Sweeney, 3rd Place Winner- Cody Carlier, 2nd Place Winner- Charles Pratt, and 1st Place Winner- Daphne Carlier

## Bethel Library Grand Opening

By: Sandy Prell, Library

The new Bethel Branch of the Clermont County Public Library drew a large crowd for its grand opening ceremonies in August. The branch, located at 611 Plane Street, is 10,000 square feet, more than double the size of the old building.

A unique feature of the new library, is a drive-through window for dropping off and picking up items. This will be the first Clermont Library to offer this service.

Other features of the new library include a spacious meeting room, a wireless "hotspot," an expanded Teen Zone, a special children's area, and a patio for outdoor programs.



*To showcase the new drive-through window, children from the Bethel Storytime groups helped with a special ribbon cutting in cardboard kiddy cars they helped decorate. Helping the children are Patty Szuszkiewicz, youth services librarian; and Bethel Mayor Dave Simpson*



*On the Move* is a service of the Board of Clermont County Commissioners. For more information about any of the articles included in this publication, contact Kathy Lehr at **732-7597**.